

# **RECAP: Auburn State Recreation Area Trail Usage/Safety Meeting**

November 5, 2013 (next meeting: January 15, 2013)

Auburn City Hall, Rose Room • 1225 Lincoln Way • Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Meeting Attendees,

Below you will find a recap of the November 5 meeting's discussion. Our next public meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15.

Sincerely,

Auburn Endurance Capital Committee

Cynci Calvin, Colleen Conley, Lisa Kodl, Robert Miller, Harvey Roper, Bob Snyder

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## **November 5, 2013 ASRA Trail User and Safety Meeting Recap**

Attendees: Jeff Barker, Diana Boyer, Cynci Calvin, Colleen Conley, Carrie Ellinwood, Mark Engemann, Mark Falcone, Donna Furlow, Phil Gardner, Steve Hallmark, Lisa Kodl, Marilyn Jasper, Mike Lynch, John Mackey, Becky Maynard, Rex Maynard, Robert A. Miller, Mark Pecotzeh, Bobbie Reagan, Harvey Roper, Bob Suter, Judy Suter, Tim Twietmeyer, Heath Wakelee, Tom Ward, Jesse Warda, Barbara White, Donna Williams, Linda Ziegler-Burkett

- Greeting and overview of meeting goals by Endurance Capital Committee member, Harvey Roper
  - "The ECC's mission for these meetings is to develop a plan to present to the ASRA administrators that will satisfy the needs of Auburn State Recreation Area's trail user groups with respect and safety for all."
  - The ECC will begin working on a Trail Etiquette manual and seeks input from the user groups.
- Attendee Introductions
- Western States Safe Trails Alliance (WSSTA) Presentation
  - Introduction by Bob Suter – forester, equestrian, trail builder and maintenance worker, mountain biker, runner
  - Slides and videos described: the WSSTA mission; related groups; Western States Trail history; Western States Trail route; key events (Tevis and WSER); trail maintenance work; hazards of mountain bike/equestrian encounters on narrow single track trails with no line of sight; mountain bike trail damage; motorcycle damage near Cougar Rock; comparison of user group average speeds; interviews with equestrians injured due to encounters with mountain bikes; mtn. bike exclusion policy changes in other places; list of organizations for safe trails; news articles.
  - WSSTA Presentation discussion
    - Not all mountain bikers are bad – most are caring and careful.
    - Erosion/trail damage is not entirely caused by mountain bikes; motorcycles, weather, horses
    - The presentation and the WSSTA showcases preservation of the entire Western States Trail, which is not the mission of these meetings.
    - U.S. Senate S. 60: Western States National Historic Trail Study Act of 2013. This piece of legislation that will end in designating the WS Trail as a national historic trail, is the essential step needed to protect the Western States Trail. Organizations and individuals must direct their energies to supporting this bill and getting it moving. Write letters, emails, articles, etc. <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/legislation?ID=75ffb72b-0a49-40ca-a612-a05db0319967>
    - Open up a new trail for mountain bikers from Auburn to Cool.
- Endurance Capital Committee Plan for Next Steps
  - We need a smaller subcommittee to field additional input and come up with the first steps of a plan to submit to ASRA. To that end, the ECC has outreached to six knowledgeable user group representatives who have agreed to be on this subcommittee and work with the rest of you. They include:
    - Equestrians - Kathie Perry (kdpbioscan@hughes.net) Bob Suter (rtsforestry@gmail.com)
    - Mountain bikers - Jeff Barker (jeffbarker@comcast.net), Diana Boyer (boyerx4@gmail.com)

- Runners - Mark Falcone (mark.falcone@mac.com), Mark Engemann (mark.engemann@colliers.com)
- These six people will hold closed meetings and will have two primary goals to achieve by January 15, 2014:
  - Select two or three existing trails for a test usage plan – such as, but not limited to, odd/even day usage.
  - Review the usage of existing trails in the ASRA, and list potential usage designation changes.
  - During this time, user group representatives may email the Subcommittee additional ideas and suggestions. This information must have prior consensus from the sender's user group.
- On January 15, 2015 an open-to-the-public meeting will be held where the Subcommittee will present the final 11-month plan.
- By Feb. 15 (or preferably earlier) the ECC and the Trail User Subcommittee will package the approved plan and submit it to the ASRA. It will contain the plan itself and ways to publicize the plan (signage, print collateral, website presences, social media, app).
- Once the ASRA has instigated the test plan and made any recommended usage changes to other trails, an evaluation process concerning the success or failure of the plan will begin and continue until November 15, 2014.
- In mid-November, 2014 another public trail user group meeting will be held to discuss the findings and begin work on more long term plans.
- Plan discussion
  - Concern about Subcommittee meetings being closed; would prefer to continue with the open public meetings.
    - All those interested in providing additional input to the Subcommittee can still do so via email.
    - The larger public meetings will be more unwieldy and less likely to be able to come to consensus in a timely fashion.
    - The Subcommittee has a relatively small set of goals for the next public meeting, and these goals will be reviewed at the January 15 meeting. They will not be put in motion unless approved at that meeting.
    - Suggestions were made for the Subcommittee to provide periodic checkpoints to the larger group for tracking progress and also setting up an online blog or Google-doc to be used for this as well as for user group input.
  - Keep the State Park administrators and rangers in the loop. There are important differences between "Unit Trail Plans" versus "General Trail Plans."
  - Keep the Western States Trail within the ASRA protected from mountain bike usage, since equestrians from all over the country need to use this trail for their training, and without the ability to train there, the Tevis Cup could cease to exist.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.

**Next Meeting January 15, 2013 at 7 pm, Auburn City Hall**

Agenda TBA